

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     An apparatus comprising:  
2                 a file analyzer to perform a scan operation on an incoming file and  
3                 produce a scanning result; and  
4                 a signature generator to produce a digital signature, inclusive of the  
5                 scanning result, of a digital signature chain, the digital signature chain is  
6                 verified prior to accessing the incoming file.
  
- 1           2.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the incoming file is precluded  
2                 from being opened if the verified digital signature chain indicates an unacceptable  
3                 file integrity.
  
- 1           3.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the incoming file is precluded  
2                 from being executed if the verified digital signature chain indicates an  
3                 unacceptable file integrity.
  
- 1           4.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the incoming file is accessed if  
2                 the verified digital signature chain indicates acceptable file integrity.

1           5.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the file analyzer performs the  
2       scan operation and outputs the scanned file in addition to the scanning result to  
3       accompany the digital signature chain.

1           6.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is employed within  
2       a platform coupled to a local area network that a platform providing the incoming  
3       file is coupled to.

1           7.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is employed within  
2       a platform coupled to a wide area network.

1           8.       The apparatus of claim 6, wherein platform comprises at least one  
2       processor, a first control unit and memory including an accessible memory area  
3       and an isolated memory area.

1           9.       The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the platform further comprises a  
2       second control unit coupled to the first control unit, the second control unit  
3       including a token bus interface.

1           10.      The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the platform further comprises a  
2       token bus coupled to the token bus interface and in communication with at least  
3       one token.

1           11.    A method comprising:  
2                sending a file to a signatory via a network, the signatory checking  
3           the file and providing a digital signature chain indicating file integrity of  
4           the file;  
5                verifying the digital signature chain returned from the signatory via  
6           the network prior to accessing the file; and  
7                accessing the file if the verified digital signature chain indicates an  
8           acceptable file integrity.

1           12.    The method of claim 11, wherein accessing the file comprises  
2           opening the file if the verified digital signature chain indicates the acceptable file  
3           integrity.

1           13.    The method of claim 12, wherein accessing the file further  
2           comprises refusing to open the file if the verified digital signature chain indicates  
3           an unacceptable file integrity.

1           14.    The method of claim 11, wherein verifying the digital signature  
2           chain includes determining whether contents of a digital signature associated with  
3           the digital signature chain include a message regarding the integrity of the file.

1           15.    The method of claim 11, wherein the digital signature chain  
2           includes at least one digital signature and at least one certificate.

1           16.     The method of claim 15, wherein verifying the digital signature  
2 chain includes accessing contents of the at least one certificate to determine if the  
3 signatory is authorized and accessing contents of the at least one digital signature  
4 to determine the integrity of the file.

1           17.     The method of claim 11, wherein the network is a local area  
2 network (LAN).

1           18.     The method of claim 11, wherein the network is a wide area  
2 network (WAN).

1           19.     The method of claim 18 wherein the scanner is one of a virus  
2 detector, an intrusion detector, and a file integrity checker.

1           20.     The method of claim 11 wherein the file contains at least one of a  
2 code and a data.

1           21.     A computer program product comprising:  
2                   a machine-readable medium having program code embedded  
3 therein, the computer program product comprising:  
4                   platform readable program code for sending a file to a remotely  
5 located signatory via a network, the signatory checking the file and  
6 providing a digital signature chain indicating file integrity of the file;

7 platform readable program code for verifying the digital signature  
8 chain returned from the signatory via the network; and  
9 platform readable program code for preventing access to the file  
10 when the verified digital signature chain indicates an unacceptable file  
11 integrity.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the platform  
2 readable program code precluding access to the file if no digital signature chain is  
3 associated with the file.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the platform  
2 readable program code for accessing the file if the verified digital signature chain  
3 indicates an acceptable file integrity.